

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY India

SUBJECT Reactions to Pakistani-US Negotiations

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1. Indian public opinion is much aroused about the plan of a US-Pakistani agreement. Prime Minister Nehru, despite his relatively moderate public statements is very bitter about it. In his view, the arrangement has been under preparation for a long time and represents a continuation of the old British policy of setting the Moslems against India on the Indian subcontinent. Nehru and the Congress leaders are convinced that the partition of India would never have taken place if it had not been prepared by British imperialist policy, and that the division of the subcontinent is contrary to geopolitical reality. Nehru considers it one of his greatest achievements to have made the Congress Party accept Pakistan's final independence, but the latest development has re-heated Hindu bitterness against the imperialist West.
2. Sheik Abdullah was removed some months ago in Kashmir with formal abstention from interference by India in accordance with Nehru's wishes. Many reasons have been publicly given for Abdullah's removal, including a statement that he had fallen too much under Communist influence. The truth, however, is that he was removed not because of his subservience to Communist influences (which since then have not become weaker in Kashmir), but because it was believed that Abdullah, with US encouragement, intended to establish Kashmir as an independent buffer state, a possibility regarded as an outright danger to Nehru's policy of maintaining Indian neutrality. No one believes in Delhi that Pakistan will ever fight against Russia or China, or even permit the United States to use Pakistani territory in case of war, but it is a general conviction that Pakistan will use the military and economic assistance from the U.S. for staging armed intervention into Kashmir and other Indian border provinces.

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